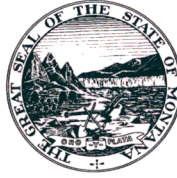


OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
STATE OF MONTANA

BRIAN SCHWEITZER
GOVERNOR



JOHN BOHLINGER
LT. GOVERNOR

September 5, 2008

Ed Schafer, Secretary
U.S. Department of Agriculture
1400 Independence Avenue, SW
Washington, D.C. 20250

Dear Secretary Schafer:

I have received an updated request for a Natural Disaster Determination (NDD) by the US Secretary of Agriculture from the Sheridan County Board of Commissioners.

The continued drought conditions have negatively impacted this year's crops. In addition to substantially below normal precipitation during the winter and spring months of 2008 and little to none in early summer, Sheridan County also experienced hail, severe storms and insects throughout the summer months.

Agricultural producers are facing severe economic losses. Grazing lands and livestock water have been severely impacted. Both the local and the agricultural economy are threatened by the continuing drought. The lack of moisture has resulted in extremely dry fuel conditions and very low water supplies which are contributing to wild land fires and fire danger.

I am forwarding a copy of this letter to the State Farm Service Agency office so they may begin to compile the necessary damage assessment information.

Your prompt review and approval of this request will be greatly appreciated. Thank you for your assistance in this matter.

Sincerely,


BRIAN SCHWEITZER
Governor

cc: Lieutenant Governor John Bohlinger
Ron de Yong, Department of Agriculture
Brigadier General John Walsh, Department of Military Affairs
Jan Traynor, Disaster & Emergency Services
Randy Johnson, Farm Services Agency
Jesse Aber, Department of Natural Resource & Conservation
County Commissioners